



Rev. CHAS. WIEDERHOLD



Rev. ISAAC J. HOCTER



Rev. JOHN CUNNINGHAM



ST. PHILUMENA CHURCH 1905.



Rev. FRED. GALLAGHER

to posterity in the printed history of Brown County's famed institution of learning, Fathers Gacon and Cheymol. Previous to 1848 it was their priestly zeal and unstinted sacrifice that kept alive the spark of faith that smoldered in the hearts of the early French immigrants who became the original members of St. Philomena's. For a decade or more they fed the famishing souls in this section with bread of life, offering up the Holy Sacrifice in a residence located some four miles due north of the present glebe. They exercised their sacramental ministry till Father Baumgardner was given the new charge in 1848, the first house of worship being erected during their time. Father Baumgardner lived with the Wissel family till a suitable residence was erected on the parish grounds.

Authentic data begin with the pastorate of Father Baumgardner, and it is worth noting that at first he wrote them exclusively in the French language.

Father Louis Navarron assumed charge in 1851, remaining for nearly thirty years. Among many of his very interesting French, English and Latin marginal notes in the parish record books is one in French, stating that the plot of ground upon which the church stands was purchased in the year 1839; another, that the first burial occurred September 31 (no doubt a slip of the pen for the 30th), 1839, and that the church was built after that date. A note dated September 5, 1855, enumerates and names his families and the total number of souls. He counted 81 "familles francaises," or French families, and 16 "familles irlandaises," or Irish families

A postscript dated three years later (November 7, 1858) itemizes 7 *newly found* (the words are underscored) families. His enumeration is a preamble to a record of the meeting held September 29, 1856, to form a new parish at New Boston. A *resume* dated 1866 enumerates 58 families.

The log church building burned on the eve of Ascension Day, 1868, and was replaced by a stone structure in 1869.

During the pastorate of Father Schelhammer, who took charge in July, 1880, the present parish house was built. An interesting record shows that this substantial six-room building cost less than a thousand dollars—to be exact, \$923.70.

Father Wiederhold (1883-'85) was succeeded by Father Hocter, who likewise was permitted to enjoy

the life of a country pastor for but two years.

During Father Cunningham's pastorate (1887-1903) the old cemetery (in such a one as this the "Elegy" might have been written), with the parish dead of forty years, was found to be no longer ample, and burial in the new cemetery began. (NOTE—As a matter of record, the first Catholic burial took place about a mile east of the present grounds, at a place where it was thought the church would be built. This was before 1839, and the remains of the deceased man there buried were later removed to the present old cemetery.)

A period of great development was that of Father Fred. Gallagher's pastorate (1903-'06). The beautiful brick church, built in 1905, is a lasting monument to the energy, zeal and wonderful co-operation